



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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Spokane class helps prepare pest control operators and structural pest inspectors for licensing exam

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), in cooperation with Washington State University Extension, is conducting a pre-license training class March 22-24 in Spokane for those wishing to become licensed as pest control operators or structural pest inspectors.

WSDA enforces the state's pesticide laws and licenses about 24,000 pesticide applicators, dealers, and consultants, as well as structural pest inspectors. The pre-licensing training is a three-day class and will assist individuals required to be licensed as commercial pesticide applicators, operators, or structural pest inspectors in taking exams. Participants can sign up for each day or for all three sessions. The class will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 22 and March 23, and from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 24 at the Spokane County Extension Education Center, 222 N. Havana, Spokane.

Individuals who complete the training and wish to become licensed can take the exam on March 24 from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The class will be led by Carol Ramsay, pesticide education specialist at the WSU Department of Entomology, Pullman; Art Antonelli, Extension entomologist with WSU's Research and Extension Center in Puyallup; and Dan Suomi, pest control operator specialist with WSDA's Pesticide Management Division in Olympia. In addition to providing information on safe operations, the course will focus on general insect pests, structural pests, and how to report on wood destroying organisms observed during inspections conducted for real estate transactions.

"People taking these classes are much more likely to pass the licensing exam than those who take the exam with no previous instruction," said Suomi. "This training will help individuals become better pesticide applicators and provide consumers with more thorough structural pest inspections," WSU's Ramsay noted.

The registration fee is \$40 per person per day if postmarked on or before March 8. After that it will be \$60/day. There is no fee to take the exam, but a license fee applies for each category: Commercial Applicator – \$170; Commercial Operator – \$50; Structural Pest Inspector – \$45. To register for the class, call WSU Pesticide

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Training at (509) 335-2830 and ask for information on the WSU Pre-License Training for Pest Control Operators and Structural Pest Inspectors. Persons can register online at <http://pep.wsu.edu>. Study materials are required and can be ordered from the WSU Bulletin Office at (800) 723-1763. They should be ordered prior to the training.

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